



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

Umatilla Chemical Depot

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility now operating at full capability

Umatilla Chemical Depot, Hermiston, Ore. – The Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility received approval from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to increase the destruction of chemical mustard agent from a 75 percent processing rate to 100 percent, effective today.

“We have completed the required steps to safely ramp up the destruction of the remaining chemical mustard agent stored at the Umatilla Chemical Depot,” said Gary Anderson, U.S. Army site project manager at the UMCDF. “With this increase in processing we anticipate destruction of the last of the remaining 1,200 tons of chemical agent within a year.”

The UMCDF began destroying mustard in June 2009. Umatilla had a stockpile of 2,339 tons of mustard agent in large steel containers with no explosives, allowing larger volumes of agent to be processed on a daily basis through the facility’s two liquid incinerators.

“We appreciate the opportunity to increase our processing rate to the level we demonstrated in the agent trial burn and look forward to safely and compliantly completing our mission of destroying the rest of the mustard agent,” said Steve Warren, Project General Manager for URS, the company that built and operates the demilitarization plant.

UMCDF has completed more than 7.7 million man-hours without a lost-time injury.

The United States is a party to the Chemical Weapons Convention, a treaty signed by 188 countries that calls for the destruction of all chemical agents by April 29, 2012.

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